Village of Indian Head Park 201 Acacia Drive Indian Head Park, IL 60525

MEETING MINUTES BOARD OF TRUSTEES

"Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/c.06 (3) minutes of public meetings shall include, but need not be limited to a general description of all matters proposed, discussed, or decided and a record of votes taken."

Thursday, September 8, 2011

7:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER - MAYOR RICHARD ANDREWS

The regular scheduled meeting of the Village of Indian Head Park Board of Trustees was held on Thursday, September 8, 2011 at the Municipal Facility, 201 Acacia Drive, and was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Richard Andrews. Village Clerk Joseph Consolo called the roll as follows:

ROLL CALL: JOSEPH CONSOLO, VILLAGE CLERK

PRESENT (AND CONSTITUTING A QUORUM):

Mayor Richard Andrews Trustee Brian T. Bailey Trustee Carol Coleman Trustee Anne Bermier Trustee Matthew P. Walsh

ALSO PRESENT:

Frank Alonzo, Chief of Police/Administration Joseph V. Consolo, Village Clerk Richard Ramello, Counsel, Storino, Ramello & Durkin Edward Santen, Water/Public Works Superintendent

NOT PRESENT:

Trustee Debbie Anselmo Steve Busa, Treasurer Trustee Norman L. Schnaufer

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Mayor Andrews and the Board of Trustees led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag: "I Pledge Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God indivisible with liberty and justice for all".

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Andrews stated that Sunday, September 11th will be the tenth anniversary of the 911 terrorist attacks on our Country. He noted that there were almost 3,000 people who passed away, over three hundred fireman and first responders perished on that date when the twin towers and Pentagon were under attack and lives were also lost in the plane that went down on that date in Shanksville Pennsylvania.

In commemoration of the anniversary of the 911 event and those that perished, Mayor Andrews read the following poem into the record entitled "Lady Liberty Cried": "Another bright September day, another sun filled sky, she stands her ground with endless pride as planes above her fly. She looks upon her children for loved ones dear to heart as they go through their normal chores some only just a start. But soon the peace was shattered as men so filled with hate soon turned their rage to senseless acts to meet their horrid fate. First one and then another hit impossible to seem, two other impacts hit elsewhere as in a horrid dream. Though some did fight the evil, as heroes they had died, and as the crowd twins met their fall, the lady Liberty cried". Mayor Andrews and the Board of Trustees paused for a moment of silence in commemoration of everyone who perished, all their families and relatives and everyone throughout the world who has been directly touched by the September 1, 2001 attack. Mayor Andrews pointed out there will be a ceremony at the Robert Coulter American Legion Post in LaGrange on Sunday morning and the Village of Westchester is having a silent parade Sunday evening September 11th in honor of September 11th. The parade will pass through several towns with a memorial service to be held at Mayfair Park in Westchester.

Trustee Bermier mentioned an article recently appeared in a local newspaper about a couple who lives in Indian Head Park who gave birth on September 11, 2001 to a son Patrick who wants to be a fireman.

Mayor Andrews reported that the LaGrange Highlands Sanitary District is making watermain repairs to their water and sewer service systems. He noted some maintenance issues came up during the repairs and the Village is addressing those matters directly with the LaGrange Highlands Sanitary District.

Mayor Andrews stated that recently the Board approved the resale inspection ordinance and there are a few administrative items to finalize for implementation on the effective date of October 1, 2011. He further stated earlier this summer the Board approved a reduction of the speed limit on Cascade Drive from 25 mph to 20 mph. The new speed limit signs will be installed soon.

Mayor Andrews stated that progress on the Heritage Center renovation is moving forward and the project will begin as soon as the windows are delivered so the work can be completed this fall. He noted that the Village Engineer has finalized the bids for the Blackhawk Park improvements in connection with funds that will be received from the Township Park Bond issue to complete the project. Once approval is received from the Lyons Township attorney the Village will seek bids for the project for a new concrete pathway to be installed at Blackhawk Park.

Mayor Andrews reported there were a few break-ins in town, no one was hurt, crime alert fliers were distributed throughout town including a link on the Village Website and the police have been following these incidents closely. Police Chief Alonzo stated that burglaries are one of the hardest crimes to solve because usually there are no witnesses and evidence is lacking. He noted that the Police Department is making progress and gathering information, as of yet there are no arrests but some neighboring communities are experiencing the same type of burglaries and the Village is working with those departments to try to solve the crimes. Chief Alonzo stated there have been some special details in town on the weekends, the Police Department is following up on all leads and the Police Department will implement a monthly community awareness meeting on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Municipal Facility in the Board Room. He added all residents are invited to attend, the meeting will be sponsored by the Police Department, an officer or sergeant will inform residents of any events taking place in the community, residents can ask questions and some meetings will be held to provide general information to the community on various topics. Chief Alonzo stated that the community awareness meetings will not be a forum for people to make complaints or ask questions about the budget or taxes. Mayor Andrews stated that the Village did get the word out to the community by way of a flier when incidents were occurring in town.

Chief Alonzo stated that in general many burglaries will occur when someone is not at home because the person does not want to encounter anyone or be caught. He added the community awareness meetings will help inform residents how to report matters to the Village. Chief Alonzo stated when someone calls the Village to report a suspicious incident it gives the officer more authority to approach a person to investigate the matter rather than an officer just trying to stop someone to question them.

Mayor Andrews stated there are special guests present this evening from the Pleasantview Fire Protection District. Retired Fire Chief Dan Hermes, the newly appointed Fire Chief Kevin Doyle and retired Fire Marshall Dan Tholotowsky.

PRESENSATION OF RECOGNITION CERTIFICATE PRESENTED TO RETIRED FIRE CHIEF DAN HERMES

On behalf of the Village Board, Mayor Andrews presented retired Fire Chief Dan Hermes with a service recognition certificate for his years of dedicated service to the Pleasantview Fire Protection District. Mayor Andrews stated that Dan retired after thirty-four (34) years of dedicated service to the community. Dan joined Pleasantview Fire Protection District in 1977 as a paid on-call firefighter, he was hired as a career firefighter in March of 1980. Dan quickly rose through the ranks and in 1983 was promoted to Lieutenant; in 1986 he was promoted to Captain.

As Captain he oversaw the day-to-day operations of four stations and an on-duty staff of sixteen (16) firefighters. In 1990, Dan was promoted to Deputy Chief and in 1995 he was promoted to Fire Chief. Chief Hermes continued to work tirelessly as a chief to insure that Indian Head Park and the other five communities that comprised the Pleasantview Fire Protection District were served at a high level of efficiency. Dan served as Pleasantview's Fire Chief for sixteen years until his retirement this past July. Mayor Andrews stated that Dan will be missed and everyone was fortunate to have his leadership over that time. Dan Hermes stated that he was born in Brookfield, when his family moved to the LaGrange Highlands he attended school in the community, he graduated from Lyons Township High School, he attended Lewis University and studied aviation to pilot his own plane and once he joined the fire department he realized he had a passion for it and continued on in school to prepare for possible promotions in the future. Dan Hermes stated he was a Lieutenant for several years and when an opening came up in the Captain position he took the test for the position. He stated there was a lot of transition in the department over the years as communities started to grow and he was fortunate to work with such fine people and everyone had the same goals to make the job easier.

PRESENATION OF RECOGNITION CERTIFICATE PRESENTED TO RETIRED FIRE MARSHALL DAN THOLOTOWSKY

On behalf of the Village Board, Mayor Andrews presented retired Fire Marshall Dan Tholotowsky with a service recognition certificate for his years of dedicated service to the Pleasantview Fire Protection District. Dan joined the Pleasantview Fire Protection District on November 11, 1979. Dan retired on June 16th after thirty-one (31) years of preventing fires throughout the community. Dan was promoted to Lieutenant in 1983 and joined the fire prevention bureau shortly thereafter. Dan helped enact sprinkler codes, fire alarm codes and life safety measures that saved the lives of firefighters and residents. Dan was promoted to Captain in 1987, Battalion Chief in 1992 and Fire Marshall in 2001. Dan also served as the President of the Illinois Fire Inspectors Association in 1991. He was the first recipient of the prestigious Wayne Lect Award in June of 2001 for his efforts in helping communities enact codes that kept them safe from the ravages of fire. Dan is one of the most respected firefighters in this State and has directly helped to save over sixty (60) buildings in the Pleasantview Fire Protection District. Dan gave of himself every day for over thirty years not only to protect the residents but other firefighters whether they are friends or strangers.

Dan Tholotowsky stated that when he was about five years old growing up in Cicero Illinois, he had a vision to become a fireman and to follow his dreams. Dan stated after school he used to hang around the local firehouse in the community where he grew up and even knew Indian Head Park Deputy Clerk Kathy Leach's father who was a fireman working on the department at that time. Dan stated that he has had the pleasure of meeting everyone along the way, it has been an honor and privilege to serve the community, some firefighters have been lost along the way and he strived to work harder to establish codes to enforce to insure safety.

Mayor Andrews and the Village Board welcomed Kevin Doyle who has been appointed as Fire Chief of the Pleasantview Fire Protection District. On July 9th the Pleasantview Fire Protection District swore in Fire Chief Kevin Doyle, the fifth fire chief in its 65 year history of the district.

Kevin was hired in 1986, he served the community for twenty-five years, he rose through the ranks and in 1989 he was promoted to Lieutenant, in 1994 he was promoted to Captain, he served in that rank for one year until being promoted to Battalion Chief in 1995. Kevin played an integral role with the District's new administration in keeping the district focused on continuous improvement to the citizens throughout this fire protection district. In 2009, Kevin was promoted to Deputy Fire Chief and worked closely with Chief Hermes. On July 9, 2011 he was appointed Fire Chief to continue the long time tradition of unmatched service and commitment to every citizen and business in Indian Head Park. Chief Doyle thanked Mayor Andrews and the Board for inviting him to the meeting this evening, he noted there have been eight retirements from the department this past July and they will be sorely missed and the department will work hard to keep the community safe. Chief Doyle stated that the efforts of retired Chief Hermes and Dan Tholotowsky have made such a positive impact in the community and their efforts are truly appreciated.

APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting – August 11, 2011

After review of Board meeting minutes, Trustee Walsh moved, seconded by Trustee Bermier, to approve the August 11, 2011 regular Board meeting minutes, as presented. Carried by unanimous voice vote (4/0/2).

QUESTIONS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Pat Impens, of 6287 Edgebrook Lane, stated that the streets in Ashbrook are deteriorating, there is broken asphalt in some sections and the roads are in need of maintenance repairs. She asked if the Board would keep that in mind when considering road projects. Mrs. Impens also stated that the wood street signs in Ashbrook need to be replaced or repaired and possibly the signs can be straightened on the posts.

Chief Alonzo stated that there are some streets that will be patched and the Village will look at all streets in the community to determine what needs to be fixed based on available funds in the budget. Mayor Andrews stated that Ashbrook streets and Arrowhead Trail are on the list of streets that are in need of maintenance and he would like to have them paved as soon as Village finances permit. However, finding the necessary funds in this poor economy is proving to be problematic. Mayor Andrews stated that he will have the Public Works Department look into the repair or replacement of the Ashbrook signs.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustee Coleman moved, seconded by Trustee Bailey, to adjourn to executive session pursuant to Section 2 (c) (21) of the Open Meetings Act to review closed session meeting minutes. Carried by unanimous roll call vote (4/0/2).

Ayes: Trustees: Bailey, Bermier, Coleman, Walsh

Nays: None

Absent: Anselmo, Schnaufer

RETURN TO THE REGULAR MEETING

Trustee Bailey moved, seconded by Trustee Walsh, to return to the regular Board meeting. Carried by unanimous voice vote (4/0/2).

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Trustee Bermier moved, seconded by Trustee Coleman, to adjourn the regular Board meeting at 8:45 p.m. Carried by unanimous voice vote (4/0/2).

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Leach, Deputy Village Clerk/Recording Secretary